

# Morton Testimonial Association

Extract from the CINCINNATI GAZETTE of Jan. 1, 1867, containing a letter from Prof. SAMUEL F. B. MORSE, the inventor of the electric telegraph, concerning Dr. C. T. JACKSON's claim to his discovery.

## THE DISCOVERY OF ETHERIZATION.

We printed a letter from Dr. C. T. JACKSON, of Boston, yesterday morning, in which he called in question not only Dr. MORTON's claims to the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of ether, but also accused him of downright dishonesty. He asserted that Dr. MORTON's pretensions had never been recognized by any learned society, by Congress, or by foreign Governments, and that a medal, which Dr. M. said that he had received from the French Academy, was only an inferior one, enlarged and altered by him. Since the appearance of the letter, we have had a call from Dr. MORTON, who has shown by documentary evidence, in many instances producing the original papers, that his claims were many times sustained by the leading committees of Congress, and had been indorsed by both Houses, though, unfortunately, never in the conjunction necessary to give their action the force of law; that the prominent physicians of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and other cities, hundreds of medical and college Professors, and other men of learning and ability, were united in awarding him the honor and credit of discovering and applying the anæsthetic qualities of ether; that France, Russia, Sweden, not to mention other European powers, had recognized his success and great discovery; that his medal from the French Academy was genuine.

The above are only a few of the points made clear to us.

As for Dr. MORTON's early experiences at the West, they have nothing to do with his discovery of etherization, and are, besides, susceptible of a very different interpretation from that given by Dr. JACKSON. The latter gentleman Dr. MORTON pronounces a monomaniac. In the light of the evidence offered, it is only charitable to suppose that Dr. JACK-

SON's bitter charges are due to a peculiar mental bias. This view, it will be seen by the subjoined letter, is entertained by Professor MORSE, the inventor of the telegraph, whose discoveries have also been claimed by Dr. JACKSON.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Sept. 27, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: Many thanks for your kind attention to my request for documents relating to that pestilent monomaniac Jackson. I think his career for evil is nearly if not quite run. I am writing a series of letters to a French savan, a friend of mine, to aid him in repelling a gratuitous attack upon me in the Paris Moniteur, and in my defence I shall have occasion to clear up his (Jackson's) base claim upon my invention. In the course of my strictures I shall allude to his like treatment of you. I have for a long time believed him to be insane; but I do not see why an exception should be made in his case of confinement in a lunatic asylum. At any rate, the public protection should be given to those from whom he steals and whom he vilifies, even if they allow him to walk up and down in the earth unmolested. For such a compound of conceit, duplicity and impudence, I know not whether to feel most of indignation or pity. If he were sane, indignation would predominate; if he is crazy, pity would be in the ascendant; but we have a right that then he should be disarmed of offensive weapons, if his friends do not choose to have a cell for him.

I shall be most happy to have any documents on the subject of his stealings. Have you a copy of "Congressional Report," 30th Congress, 2d Session, No. 114? If so, I should be glad of a copy. With kind regards and sympathies.

Your friend and servant,

SAML. F. B. MORSE.

Dr. W. T. G. MORTON, Wellesley, Mass.

We think that Prof. MORSE's letter has great weight. To those who desire further information on the subject, we recommend the perusal of the proceedings in behalf of the MORTON Testimonial, published by a Committee of the Medical Faculty of this city.



